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286 are Cryptogams and 1254 are Phanerogams. The Cryptogams are 119 cellular and 167 vascular, and the Phanerogams are 125 Gymnosperms and 113 are Angiosperms. The Angiosperms embrace 467 apetalous, 406 polypetalous, and 106 gamopetalous species." The comparison that is made between this flora and that of the Cretaceous systems below, and the Eocene above, is highly instructive. It is well known that the students of palæobotany have insisted that the evidence throws the Laramie into the Eocene series, while the cultivators of the palæontology of the Vertebrata have been equally certain that this system must be placed at the summit of the Cretaceous. The specialists in Invertebrata have not produced very strong evidence either way. It is therefore a matter of much interest that Mr. Ward, after this full survey of the flora, writes as follows: "Taking all these facts into consideration, therefore, I do not hesitate to say that the Laramie Flora as closely resembles the Senonian Flora as it does either the Eocene or the Miocene Flora. But again, I would insist that this does not necessarily prove either the Cretaceous age of the Laramie Group or its simultaneous deposit with any of the upper Cretaceous beds." To the palæontologist the above paragraph will be sufficient to settle finally the reference of the Laramie to the Cretaceous series, without regard to the question of synchronism. We are not fully acquainted with the true time-relations of the extinct floræ and faunæ of the northern hemisphere, but we have evidence enough to show that, whether exactly synchronous in different parts of this area or not, the nonconformity in time has not been very great.

The memoir is accompanied by numerous illustrations.—*E. D. Cope.*

Keep's West Coast Shells.[1]—This is a popular work of convenient size for the pocket, and on a subject which is interesting to every lover of nature. With its help the student may identify the species in their haunts, not by a system of scientific analytical keys, but by the aid of excellent wood-cuts, and appropriate descriptions of their external characters. As a book for the amateur, and as introductory to a more severe scientific treatment of the subject, this book is admirably adapted.

Batrachians and Reptiles of Central America and Mexico.—In this Bulletin (No. 32) of the United States National Museum Prof. E. D. Cope has published a synonymic and geographical catalogue of the animals referred to in the title. The richness of the region in question is shown by the fact that they number in total 705 species, which are divided among 197 genera. Of the 705, 135 are Batrachia and 570 are Reptilia. Of snakes there are 315 species, of which 45 are venomous. The family of Colubridæ alone contains 243 species. The other families, which include over twenty species, are (snakes) Crotalidæ; (lizards) Scincidæ, Anguidæ, Iguanidæ, Anolidæ; (frogs, etc.) Cystignathidæ, Hylidæ, and Bufonidæ. Three new genera are described: Diaglena for the *Triprion spatulatus* of Günther; Dipeltophis for the *Leptognathus albocinctus* of Fischer; and Ophryacus for the *Atropus undulatus* of Jan. Two new species are described, *Scytopis boulengeri* and *Elaps bernadi*.

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[1] West Coast Shells. A Familiar Description of the Marine, Fresh-Water, and Land Mollusks of the United States found west of the Rocky Mountains. By Josiah Keep, A.M. San Francisco: Bancroft Bros. & Co., 1887.

This Bulletin is an illustration of the delays of the United States Government printing-office. Handed in to the secretary of the Smithsonian Institution January 16, 1886, it is not published until October 16, 1887.

Illustrations of Vivisection.[1]—The errors of the antivisectionists have been so often set forth that it would seem unnecessary to repeat them, especially in view of the fact that the society that issues this pamphlet did at one time restrict its efforts to the very proper restraint of unnecessary and needlessly cruel vivisection. But in reprinting extracts from the papers of that irrepressible and irrational lady, Miss Frances Power Cobbe, the society lays itself open to a repetition of all the just complaints made against their movement by the science of the day. Dogs and rabbits strapped to holders in awkward positions may excite the sympathy of the ignorant, just as a horse on his back in the street may do, but appeals by such means to the sympathies of enlightened people will only excite a smile. Even less elegant and æsthetic are the scenes daily witnessed on the operating-table of the surgeon, but men and women submit to them for the good of themselves and of their families. The superstition that a muscular spasm necessarily produces pain is here played upon, and various operations are depicted, most of which are painless. In the infliction of suffering, however, which accompanies some of the physiological experiments, the humane scientific man takes no more pleasure than the antivivisectionist. He is only sustained in it by the knowledge that the benefit to mankind overbalances the suffering inflicted on the animal. This pamphlet is one of the illustrations of one of the noblest of human qualities gone wrong.

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[1] Illustrations of Vivisection, or Experiments on Living Animals, from the Works of Physiologists, namely, Claude Bernard and Paul Bert, as reproduced in "Bernard's Martyrs" and "Light in Dark Places." By Miss Frances Power Cobbe. Philadelphia: American Society for the Restriction of Vivisection.